

Ecology response amended for H/24/97974 44 QUEENS VIEW, NETLEY ABBEY,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5EA

Two storey side/rear extension and single storey rear extension (Resubmission application)

Claire Campbell-Best

10/9/24

I have reviewed the amended Existing and Proposed Plans and Elevations. The proposed locations of the bat box and swift nest box are directly above windows, which is not suitable. Neither bats nor swifts are likely to use boxes where there is disturbance such as from an open window. Light coming out of the window would also be disturbing to bats.

The Bat Conservation Trust recommends installing a bat brick/box at least 4 m above the ground, away from artificial light sources, sheltered from strong winds and **exposed to the sun for part of the day**, facing south, south-east or south-west. ([https://www.bats.org.uk > our-work > putting-up-your-box](https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/putting-up-your-box))

Swift nest boxes are best positioned under the eaves or on walls facing north, northeast or north-west **out of direct sunlight**, five metres above the ground, with clear adjacent airspace so swifts can access them in a high-speed direct flight. (<https://www.swiftconservation.org/Nestboxes%26Attraction.htm>)

The proposed east elevation does not have any windows, so this would be preferred but I would recommend contacting the Bat Conservation Trust (www.bats.org.uk) and Hampshire Swifts (www.hampshireswifts.co.uk) for more information and additional advice for this particular building. I think both organisations will provide free advice on box placement for householders.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

2/9/24

I have reviewed the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Bat Roost Assessment. The building has been assessed as having negligible bat roost suitability. No further surveys are required. A built-in bat box and two swift bricks were recommended as biodiversity enhancements. A precautionary working method and habitat enhancements for hedgehogs have been recommended. These recommendations are all appropriate.

The location of these enhancements must be shown on an elevation plan. This can be conditioned.

Additional flowering plants should be planted to provide resources for pollinators and to attract food for bats and birds.

The location of these enhancements must be shown on an elevation plan. This can be conditioned.

Additional information on biodiversity enhancements is available at:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats

<https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/WAG16%20Bats%20updated%202022%20WEB.pdf> - Stars of the Night guide to attract bats into your garden

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

<https://www.swift-conservation.org/OurLeaflets.htm>

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/>

www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/landscape-and-urban-design-for-bats-and-biodiversity

<https://ptes.org/my-garden/>

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/foodplants.php>

Please could you add the following informative to the decision notice:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be called. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>

Appendix 4 contains photos of the site. The house has been described as having pebble dash render, however in the Existing and Proposed Elevations plan this is described as concrete cladding.

It is best practice for a preliminary ecological appraisal and a preliminary bat roost appraisal to have a validity date after which it needs to be re-surveyed. Since this has not been provided in the report, please add the following informative:

If work has not commenced after 12 months of the date of the bat report, an update walkover survey will be required.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist